



**This barn with the old brick home and tall, stately pine trees have stood on this 1/4 block for many years. Henry Aird built the home, and it is not clear if he started the barn or was it originally built by the next owner of the property....James Stacy Murdock, (born 8 Dec 1861)--son of Joseph Stacy Murdock and Elizabeth Hunter? This property, at 517 E 100 N in Heber, then passed from James Stacy to his daughter, Beth Murdock, who married Eldon Ritchie. After Beth died, it is now owned by Eldon and Beth's son, Brent M Ritchie.**

**Indubitably, this barn had many uses: for hay storage, animal comforts, and weather protection of different machines and stood incompletely used for many years. It did have one special use: Beth took me out into the lean-to one day, to show me the only one of the Heber Tannery vats existing at the time; used to soak the pelts in semi-caustic mixtures during the tanning process. There were six of them, originally, but that was the only one I have ever discovered. The vats were made of lead amalgum. This only tannery which Heber ever had, was located opposite Jack Lewis's new home, and exactly at 565 E 200 N in Heber. Jack was able to tell me much about this old tannery.**

**Now, that it has been necessary to tear down the barn, it is no longer the icon it once was....a vigilant monarch in *The Mountain Valley*. We all lament the loss**

**of such icons of past history. (Informants: Brent & Wayne Murdock)**

1-31-98 rrg \*